

## A THEORETICAL INTERLUDE

no democratic-bourgeois revolution. On the contrary, such a revolution was accepted as something inevitable. Once it took place (and the Communists should support it), the strategic and tactical problem would be how to transform it into the proletarian revolution without waiting for the long capitalist epoch to ripen.

Part III gave ample instructions to the Communist parties in this connection. Communist parties in colonies were warned that they must

from the beginning *demarcate themselves in the most clear-cut fashion*, both politically and organizationally, from all the petty bourgeois groups and parties. In so far as the needs of the revolutionary struggle demand it, a temporary cooperation is permissible, and in certain circumstances even a temporary union between the Communist Party and the national revolutionary movement provided that the latter is a genuine national revolutionary movement, that it genuinely struggles against the ruling power and that its representatives do not put obstacles in the way of the Communists educating and organizing in a revolutionary sense the peasants and broad masses of the exploited.

But the Communist parties must be wary of the so-called national reformist parties in the colonies and must struggle against their nefarious influence. As an example, the Theses cited the Swarajist and Wafdist parties, whose reformist character had to be exposed.

Another important instruction in this field was that the transition from the bourgeois-democratic to the proletarian revolution could be effected only if two basic conditions were fulfilled. The first was the existence of a strong Communist party. The second was the presence of certain objective circumstances described as an "unusually deep revolutionary crisis and an unusually high and

persistent  
revolutionary wave." And to make it quite clear when  
this could be  
expected, the Theses said: "Such a possibility is most  
easily presented,  
for example, when the ruling imperialism is  
temporarily distracted by  
a long continued war outside the frontiers of the  
colonial country  
concerned."

Part IV, "The Immediate Tasks of the Communists,"  
contained in-  
structions of a concrete character as to what the  
Communist parties  
should do in colonies and semicolonies. The first task  
was to build up  
and strengthen the Communist parties themselves.  
This was urgent,